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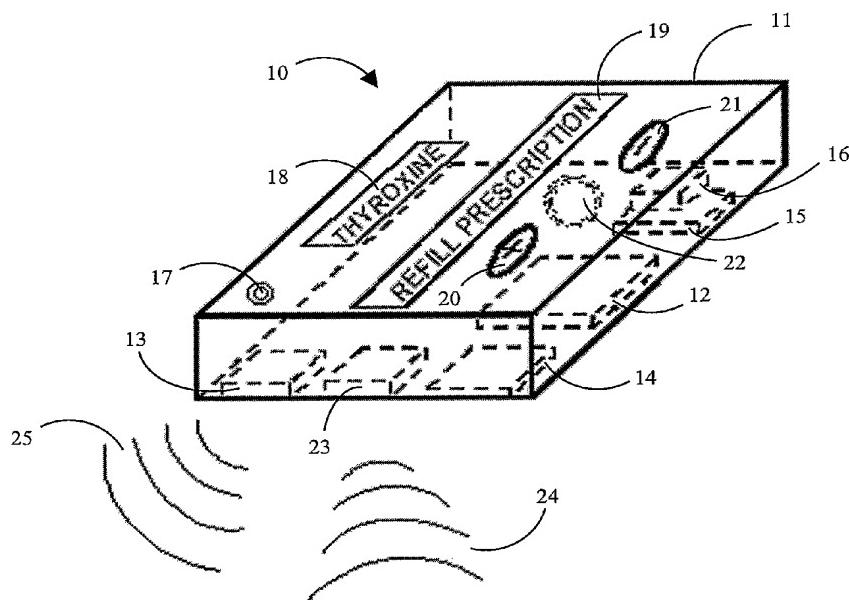
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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: PILL DISPENSING REMINDER CAPABLE OF COMMUNICATING WITH A REMOTELY SITUATED COMPUTER



(57) Abstract: A medicament reminder (10) for keeping a patient informed of medicament related matter which is capable of communicating with a remotely situated computer through the use of wireless technology. A microprocessor (12) is held in a case and includes a wireless transceiver (23). The reminder may receive data messages from the computer informing its user of important medical data while also enabling the user to transmit data messages to the computer. Data messages transmitted from the reminder to the computer include response request inquiries pertaining to specific medical issues a patient may have. A warning indicator held by the case may output a signal at triggered warning events.

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S P E C I F I C A T I O N S

2

3 PILL DISPENSING REMINDER CAPABLE OF COMMUNICATING WITH A REMOTELY
4 SITUATED COMPUTER

5

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The field of the invention is medicament reminders and the invention relates more particularly to a reminder for informing a patient of important information pertaining to medicaments.

10 There has been a long term trend of developing new drugs and
11 nutritional supplements which have greatly improved the control
12 of diseases as well as improving the health of the patient.
13 Additionally, there has also been a long term increase in human
14 life expectancy. The combination of these trends has led to both
15 a requirement for taking more than one medicine by a patient as
16 well as a tendency for the patient to be of advanced years and in
17 need of assistance in keeping informed of important information
18 pertaining to the medicines which they are taking or need to
19 take.

For example, a patient may be compelled to regularly take a medication, such as thyroxine, throughout the course of their life. This would require that they continuously refill the prescription each time it ran low. Unfortunately, many patients often forget to order the refill until the medicament is totally consumed and a few days have passed by. This results in the patient having deprived themselves of needed medication which, in some cases, can be extremely dangerous to their health.

Moreover, in situations where the patient is extremely busy, naturally forgetful, elderly, or taking a few medicines at the same time, the chances for greater delays in refilling a needed prescription(s) increases tremendously.

32 Numerous pill dispensing systems have been devised in an
33 effort to help patients remember when to take a specific
34 medication. One such device is shown in U.S. Patent No.

1 processed response would effectively operate pertains to matters
2 of medicament compatibility.

3 For example, a patient may need to know whether a particular
4 medicament is compatible with other medicament(s) they have taken
5 or are planning to take. Given the danger in taking medications
6 that are incompatible with other medications, this issue is of
7 significant importance and warrants immediate feedback. For such
8 occurrences, the remotely situated computer 30 may contain a
9 database consisting of pre-programmed data which can determine
10 the compatibility of one medicament to another. All the patient
11 would have to do is input (into the reminder 10) data pertaining
12 to the medicament(s) they are intending to take and transmit 25
13 it to the remotely situated computer 30 (reference character 32).
14 The computer 30, in return, would generate a response by cross-
15 referencing the received data with information contained in its
16 database. Additionally, by further accessing the patient's
17 medical record, the computer 30 may be able to provide a more
18 detailed response in accordance with the patient's listed medical
19 dispositions. The response would then be processed into a
20 message and transmitted 31 from the computer 30 to the patient's
21 reminder 10 (reference character 24).

22 The patient may likewise undergo a similar process for
23 determining whether they may even take a particular medicament(s)
24 on account of a pre-existing health condition(s). For example,
25 if the patient has high blood pressure, they would transmit 25 a
26 data message inquiring whether a particular medicament(s) may be
27 taken in light of that condition. After receiving 32 the
28 message, the remotely situated computer 30 would access data on
29 the requested medicament(s) for determining whether it can cause
30 high blood pressure. The response would thereafter, be processed
31 and transmitted 31 to the patient's reminder 10 (reference
32 character 24). In this manner, a patient may attain proper
33 confirmation of a medicament related compatibility issue at the
34 moment that issue arises, regardless of whether the medical
35 facility is open or occupied by any personnel at the computer 30.

1 a combination thereof.

2

3 22. A system for communicating between a remotely situated
4 computer and a medicament reminder, said system comprising:

5 a medicament reminder that is kept within the
6 possession of a patient and comprising:

7 a case for supporting circuitry;

8 a microprocessor which processes data;

9 a memory element which stores data;

10 a transceiver that is capable of communicating
11 with said remotely situated computer via the use of
12 wireless technology;

13 a power element which provides electrical energy
14 to said microprocessor; and

15 a remotely situated computer which is configured to
16 communicate with said reminder via the use of wireless
17 technology.

18

19 23. The system of Claim 22, wherein said data transmitted from
20 said remotely situated computer to said reminder is
21 generated in accordance with input from personnel operating
22 said computer.

23

24 24. The system of Claim 22, wherein said data transmitted from
25 said remotely situated computer to said reminder is
26 generated solely by said computer in accordance with a
27 program protocol.

28

29 25. The system of Claim 22, wherein said remotely situated
30 computer is located within a medical facility.

31

32 26. The system of Claim 25, wherein said medical facility is a
33 pharmacy, a hospital, a medical office, a learning
34 institution, or a combination thereof.

35

1 27. The system of Claim 22, wherein said communication comprises
2 a task reminding message, a message pertaining to medicament
3 compatibility, an advertisement, or a combination thereof.

4

5 28. A method of communication between a medicament reminder and
6 a remotely situated computer, said method comprising the
7 steps of:

8 providing a user with a medicament reminder, said
9 reminder capable of transmitting data, receiving data, or a
10 combination thereof, via the use of wireless technology, and
11 configured to communicate with a remotely situated computer
12 via the use of said wireless technology;

13 establishing a remotely situated computer capable of
14 transmitting data, receiving data, or a combination thereof,
15 via the use of wireless technology, and configured to
16 communicate with said medicament reminder via the use of
17 said wireless technology.

18 creating a data communication to be transmitted;
19 transmitting said data communication to said medicament
20 reminder or said remotely situated computer.

21

22 29. The method of Claim 28, wherein said communication comprises
23 a task reminding message, a message pertaining to medicament
24 compatibility, an advertisement, or a combination thereof.

25

26 30. The method of Claim 28, wherein said remotely situated
27 computer is located within a medical facility.

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29 31. The method of Claim 30, wherein said medical facility is a
30 pharmacy, a hospital, a medical office, a learning
31 institution, or a combination thereof.

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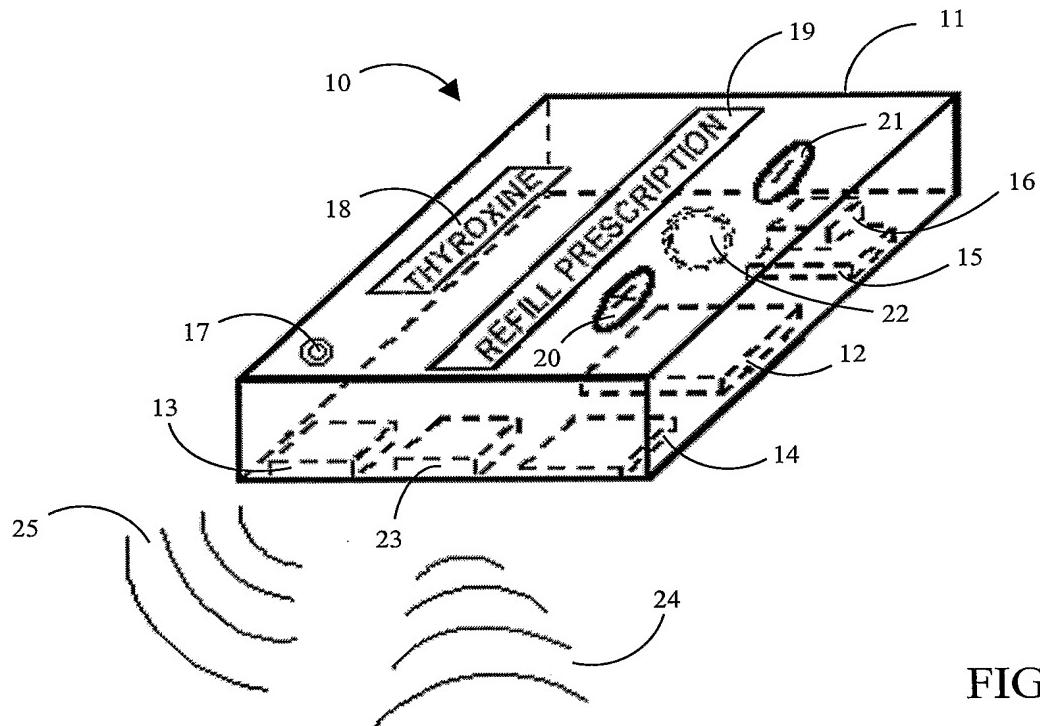


FIG. 1

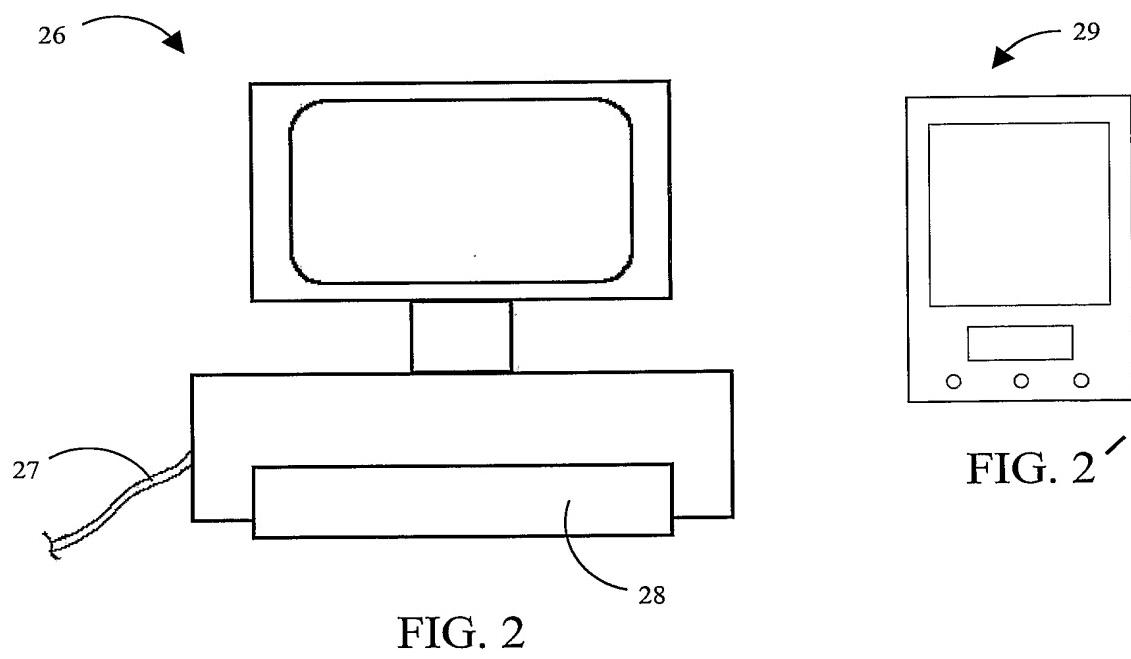


FIG. 2

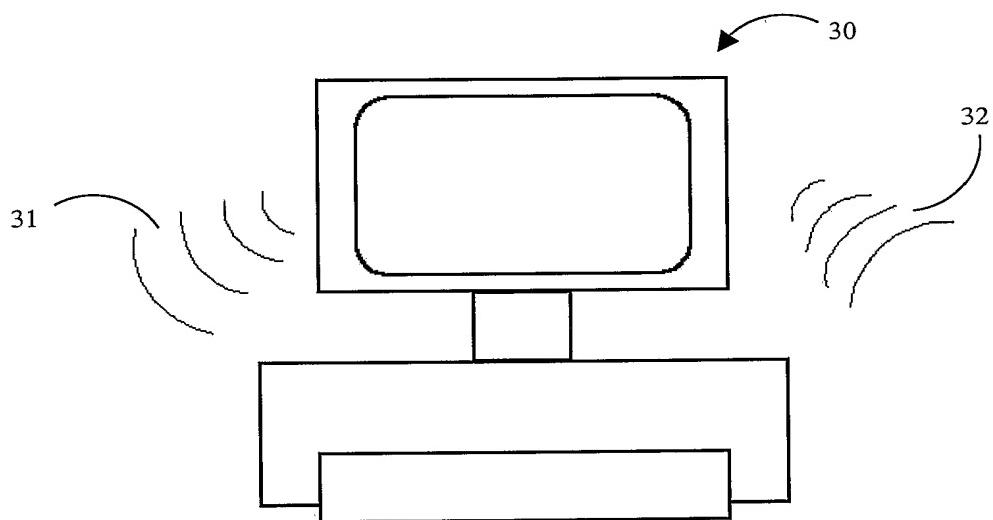


FIG. 3

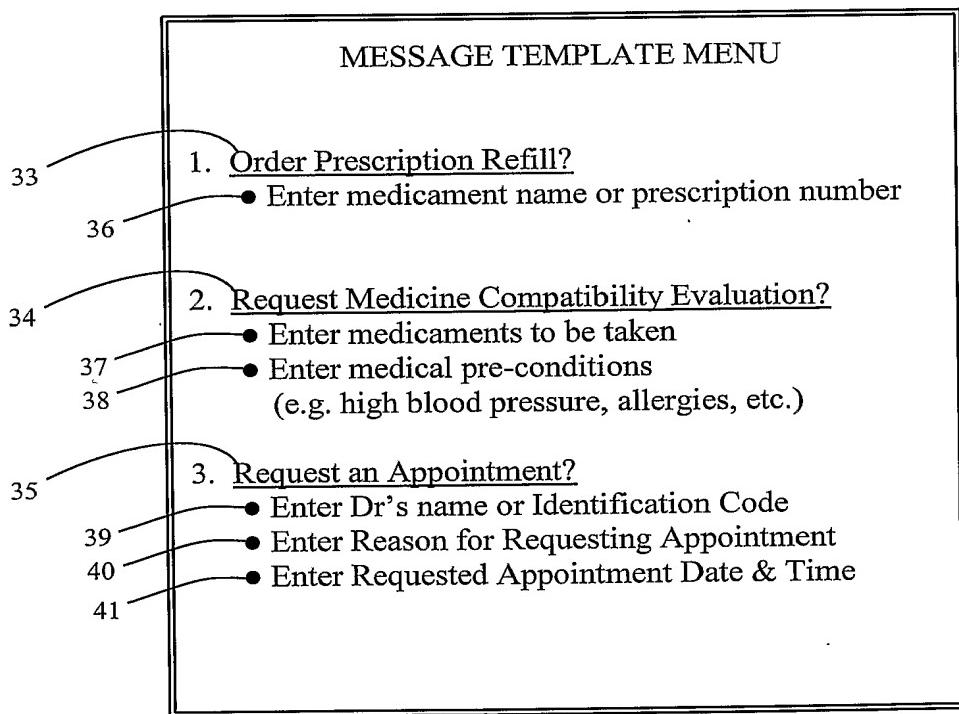


FIG. 4

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US04/09931

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : G O6 F 17/60
US CL : 705/2

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
U.S. : 705/2

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
West 2.0: medicament, drug, prescription, reminder; alert, wireless, remotely, computer, microprocessor

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 6,406,426 B1 (REUSS et al.) 18 June 2002, Col.3, lines 15-67; Col.6, lines 2-67	1-31
X	US 6,588,670 B2 (BUKOWSKI) 8 July 2003, Col.3, lines 15-67; Col.5, lines 5-67	1-31
A	US 5,845,255 A (MAYAUD) 1 December 1998, Col.29, lines 17-67	1-31

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:	"T"	later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"X"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
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"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"&"	document member of the same patent family
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means		
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed		

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